

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

SP-03 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGR-20 COA-02

IGA-02 INT-08 NSC-07 SS-20 STR-08 CEA-02 PA-04 PRS-01

USIA-15 DRC-01 /188 W

----- 120449

R 191435Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9695

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : EGEN BGEN GV OTRA

SUBJECT : PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN GUINEA - OPIC PRESIDENT
MAYS' VISIT

REF: CONAKRY 568

CONAKRY 515

1. MARSHALL MAYS, PRESIDENT OF OPIC, VISITED GUINEA APRIL 12-18. DURING HIS STAY MAYS MET SEPARATELY WITH PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE, MINISTER OF PLAN AND MINISTER OF MINES AND GEOLOGY. HE ALSO VISITED FRIGUIA ALUMINUM OPERATIONS AT KIMBO AND CBG BAUXITE PROJECT INCLUDING MINE SITE AT SANGAREDI AS WELL AS INDUSTRIAL PLANT AND PORT AT KAMSAR. IN ADDITION, HE VISITED ALUMINUM UTENSILS FACTORY IN CONAKRY.

2. DURING RELAXED FRIENDLY HALF-HOUR MEETING, AFTER REVIEWING CIRCUMSTANCES OF GUINEA'S ACCESSION TO INDEPENDENCE, PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE, WITH PRIME MINISTER BEAVOGUI PRESENT, ASSURED MAYS THAT GUINEA WOULD WARMLY WELCOME AMERICAN INVESTMENT IN ANY AREA. TOURE SAID IT IS A MATTER OF HONOR FOR GUINEA

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THAT PRIVATE COMPANIES WHICH INVEST IN GUINEA WILL NEVER

HAVE REASON TO REGRET THEIR ACTION. TOURE SAID GUINEA MAKES CLEAR DISTINCTION BETWEEN PRIVATE INVESTMENT AND COLONIALISM OR NEO-COLONIALISM, WHICH IT WILL NOT TOLERATE. HE STRESSED THAT GUINEA IS A TOUGH BARGAINER BECAUSE IT DOES NOT WISH TO AGREE TO ANY TERMS WHICH IT WOULD FIND NECESSARY LATER TO IGNORE OR ABROGATE. HOWEVER, ONCE AN AGREEMENT IS REACHED, ANY FOREIGN PARTNER COULD BE SURE THAT GUINEA WOULD FULLY HONOR ITS COMMITMENT.

3. MINISTER OF PLAN ALIOUNE Drame EXPRESSED GUINEA' READINESS TO WELCOME AMERICAN INVESTMENT IN ANY FIELD. HE SAID GUINEA GIVES HIGHEST PRIORITY TO DEVELOPMENT IN FIELDS OF AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND FISHING, AND WOULD WELCOME ANY PROPOSAL THAT ANY AMERICAN COMPANY WISHED MAKE IN THOSE AREAS. Drame EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT AN AMERICAN COMPANY, NEW ENGLAND FISHING, HAD MADE AN OFFER TO GUINEA FOR PARTICIPATION IN A FISHING INDUSTRY. IN INDUSTRIAL AREA HE ASKED FOR AMERICAN INVESTMENT IN CEMENT, MANUFACTURING TILES, FERTILIZER, PLASTICS, PAINT MANUFACTURING, CONTAINERS, PAPER AND JUTE BAGS. Drame URGED THAT PROPOSALS BE AS CLEAR AND DETAILED AS POSSIBLE, SINCE GUINE DOES NOT HAVE QUALIFIED PERSONNEL OR EXPERTISE TO DRAW UP PROJECTS OR TO ANALYZE AND UNDERSTAND VAGUE PROPOSALS.

4. MINISTER OF MINES AND GEOLOGY LAMINE TOURE EXPRESSED AGREEMENT WITH MAYS' OBSERVATION THAT IN ORDER FOR ALUMINUM TO REMAIN COMPETITIVE WITH POTENTIAL SUBSTITUTES, IT IMPORTANT TO KEEP PRICE OF RAW MATERIAL REASONABLE AND ALSO TO TAKE STEPS TO ENCOURAGE INCREASED USE OF ALUMINUM. LAMINE TOURE PROVIDED INFORMATION ON GUINEA'S BAUXITE PRODUCTION PLANS AS REPORTED CONAKRY 568.

5. DURING VISIT TO FRIGUIA, MAYS WAS GIVEN DETAILED TOUR BY PLANT MANAGER CHERIF, ACCOMPANIED BY ENGINEERS. THESE OFFICIALS JOINED BY PERSONNEL DIRECTOR RESPONDED FULLY TO ALL QUESTIONS RAISED BY MAYS. GUINEANS WERE PARTICULARLY PROUD AT PACE OF AFRICANIZATION AND FACT THAT UNDER GUINEAN LEADERSHIP PLANT HAD MANAGED TO INCREASE PRODUCTION BY NINE PERCENT. PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE LATER TOLD MAYS THAT HE HAD URGED GUINEAS TO TRY TO EXCEED EVEN THAT FIGURE DURING NEXT SIX MONTHS. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AT NO POINT DURING DISCUSSION WAS MATTER OF RULE OF ONE-THIRD RAISED (CONAKRY 515).

6. MAYS WAS ACCOMPANIED FROM CONAKRY TO BOKE BY OFAB DIRECTOR MARCEL CROS AND THEN TAKEN ON CONDUCTED TOURE OF MINE SITE AT SANGAREDI AND INDUSTRIAL SITE AND PORT AT KAMSAR UNDER PERSONAL GUIDANCE OF CBG DIRECTOR JACOBS. AS AT FRIGUIA, MAYS WAS GIVEN OPPORTUNITY TO SEE ALL ASPECTS OF

OPERATION AND RECEIVED FULL ANSWERS TO ALL QUESTIONS ASKED.
HE ALSO HAD OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WIDE VARIETY OF TECHNICAL
AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL AT RECEPTION AND DINNER
HOSTED BY JACOBS AT KAMSAR.

7. BEFORE DEPARTING CONAKRY, MAYS VISITED SOGIFAB GUINEAN
FACTORY WHICH MANUFACTURES ALUMINUM UTENSILS AND ROOFING
MATERIALS FROM ALUMINUM SHEETS SOLD AT CONCESSIONAL TERMS
FOR GUINEAN CURRENCY BY HALCO. ONCE MORE GUINEAN MANAGERIAL
AND TECHNICAL PERSONNEL WERE COMPLETELY OPEN IN EXPLAINING
OPERATION, PROBLEMS AND POSSIBILITY FOR INCREASING PRODUCTION
IF MORE ALUMINUM COULD BE PURCHASED AT SIMILAR TERMS.

8. THROUGHOUT VISIT GUINEANS TOOK PAINS TO EMPHASIZE
WILLINGNESS TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT WITH AMERICAN INVESTORS
FOR ACTIVITY IN ANY AREA PERTAINING TO COUNTRY'S DEVELOP-
MENT, WITH ASSURANCE THAT INVESTORS' INTERESTS WOULD BE
PROTECTED.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONNEL TRAVEL, PRIVATE INVESTMENTS, INVESTMENT GUARANTEES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974CONAKR00585
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740092-0167
From: CONAKRY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740430/aaaabaof.tel
Line Count: 133
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: CONAKRY 568
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 AUG 2002 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <12-Sep-2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: : PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN GUINEA - OPIC PRESIDENT MAYS' VISIT
TAGS: EGEN, BGEN, OTRA, GV, US, OPIC, (MAYS, MARSHALL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005